(iii) **Targeted Public Distribution Scheme** :—Non-issuance of ration cards.

(iv) **Old Age Pension & Annapurna Scheme** :—A large number of eligible needy people have been left uncovered by the two schemes. In many States, the existing allocation for the two schemes have not been used fully.

(d) and (e) The funds allocated and utilised under the major poverty alleviation schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development during the last three years *i.e.* 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 198 Annexure No. 15]

Old age pension

†3543. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) The number of senior citizens in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal getting pensions under 'Old Age Pension Scheme';

(b) Whether Government are aware that only few persons are getting the benefits under the scheme;

(c) Whether it is a fact that discrimination is being made on large scale in providing pensions in Pauri Garhwal in Uttaranchal and Azamgarh and Mau districts in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) The steps being taken by Government to ensure the full benefits of the scheme to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development had been administering the Centrally-sponsored National Social Assistance Programme consisting of the National Old Age Pension Scheme and the National Family Benefit Scheme until the Programme was transferred to the State Plan alongwith the Annapurna Scheme with effect from the financial year 2002-2003. No Centrally-sponsored Scheme on Old Age Pension is now being administered by the Ministry of Rural Development.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) No such report has been received by the Ministry of Rural Development who is no longer administering any Centrally- sponsored Scheme of National Old Age Pension Scheme.

(d) With the transfer of the schemes, the States/UTs have flexibility in the choice, parameters and implementation of the transferred Schemes.

Requests received from State Governments for implementation of Food for Work Programmes

3544. DR. ABRAR AHMED : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) The request received by Centre from State Governments for implementation of Food for Work Programmes in their States as on date; and

(b) The action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) and (b) The Food for Work Programme was in operation during the period from January 2001 to 31st March 2002. From 1st April 2002, the Special Component of the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) is in operation for taking up relief works in the Calamity Affected Areas/Districts. As on date the Special Component is in operation in 15 drought affected States namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal. Under the Programme, foodgrains are provided free of cost to the drought affected States on the basis of the monthly requirement worked out by the Ministry of Agriculture and approved by the Task Force set up under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister. Release under the Food for Work Programme (FFWP) from January 2001 to March 2002 was 40.31 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to 11 drought affected States whereas under the Special Component of the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) about 63.40 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been released during 2002-2003 to the 15 drought affected States.